

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
DENNIS MIDDLETON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the memory of an exceptional leader, longtime Scoutmaster, and dedicated family man, Mr. Dennis Middleton.

Dennis owned and operated E. L. Middleton and Son Garage in Loxley, Alabama, for the past 40 years. Dennis, along with his wife, Jean, took in and raised several foster children. He also served as an assistant minister of the First Christian Church of Robertsedale for 30 years. As a member of the church, he worked with the Outreach Minister Program "Life Connection" which focused on helping ex-offenders. However, the title for which he was most proud was Scoutmaster of Troop 45 in Robertsedale.

For 33 years, Dennis served as a Scoutmaster of Troop 45. He was recently asked what Scouting meant to him, and his answer was "everything." Dennis never expected his life to revolve around Scouting. When asked by the previous Scoutmaster to take charge of Troop 45, he decided to serve until a replacement could be found. Three decades later, he positively influenced countless young lives and was once described as, "the backbone of Scouting" in his area.

Dennis was a selfless individual, always eager to help anyone in need. For example, a few years ago during a Cub Scout campout, Dennis spent an entire day working on a broken water well. The Cub Scouts later found out that it was his birthday, and instead of being home celebrating with friends and family, he was at the campground making sure the Cub Scouts had water. In recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of the Scouts, a Scout lodge at the Silver Creek Campground was recently dedicated in his honor. Humbly, Dennis requested the new building not be named for him and instead follow the Scout tradition of honoring American Indian cultures. Today, the lodge is named Toknaawa Pahn, meaning "Silver Creek" in Muscogee, the native tribal group.

The great contributions made by Dennis as Scoutmaster did not go unnoticed. He was honored with several Scout awards, such as the Silver Beaver and the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor. He also received the Who's Who Gulf Coast Award in 1989. Dennis was a member of the Order of the Arrow WOA Cholenal Lodge No. 322. He attended the Wood Badge SR 550 and was a member of the respectable "Bob White" patrol.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Dennis Middleton will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 43 years, Jean Middleton; his daughters, Sabrina Middleton and Beverly Middleton; his son, Dennis Wayne Middleton; his foster son, Allen Kittrell; his sister, Mary Sue Archer and her husband David; his brother, Charles David Middleton and his wife Lillie; his 13 grandchildren—as well as the countless friends and fellow Scouts he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXOMA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND THE SERVICE OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE TEXOMA FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of leadership within the Texoma Council of Governments, as well as the service of dedicated volunteers in the Texoma Foster Grandparent Program.

The Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) was formed by the Legislature in 1968, and was designated under the authority of Chapter 391, Local Texas State Government Code, along with 23 other State Planning Regions, to review and comment on Federal and State financial assistance requests. It is a voluntary organization comprised of city and county governments, colleges, school districts, and chambers of commerce, determined to build strength through regional cooperation. TCOG is responsible for evaluating any project that would have an impact on the three-county area of Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties, and works to continually improve the economic, social, and educational opportunities for the citizens in these regions.

Due to the large number of senior community servants in the area, TCOG founded the Texoma Foster Grandparent Program. This program is part of a national organization focused on utilizing area seniors, ages 60 or older, to mentor and tutor "at risk" youths. These volunteers serve approximately 40,000 hours per year in public settings such as Texoma schools, day care, and community centers. On April 24th, the Program's Advisory Council recognized its dedicated senior volunteers with a 50s themed recognition, fittingly entitled, "Volunteers Rock," at the Sherman First United Methodist Church. Several area businesses donated food, door prizes, and funds to help make the event a success, as all volunteers received awards for hours served during the year. The Texoma Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council and the program's volunteers are wonderful role models for the community at large, and I wholeheartedly applaud them for utilizing their experience, talents, and energy to serve as a positive influence for special needs children and "at risk" youths.

But Texoma's celebration doesn't end there because on June 19, 2008, TCOG will celebrate its 40th Anniversary at Austin College with an event entitled "Legacy of Leadership." Funds generated by business partners and vendors for this event will be returned to Texoma's private sector and donated to the Texoma Senior Citizens Foundation. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate TCOG's many accomplishments and legacy of service during the past 40 years. I want to commend current and past members who have contributed their time, talent and resources to make TCOG one of the most effective Councils of Government in the State.

I am confident that the Texoma Council of Governments will continue to meet the challenges of the future and continue to provide outstanding services for those it represents,

and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating TCOG on its 40th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO OLD GLORY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the journey of remembrance our Nation's flag has made over the past 6 months, which culminated on Memorial Day when it flew over the Capitol and specifically the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. that day.

The flag's journey started December 7, 2007, in Hawaii to mark the 66th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The flag made a stop on Christmas Eve in Washington's Eighth District, at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington. During its journey, Old Glory traveled to 28 different locations in 20 States, being flown over a significant memorial site at every stop. The journey of our Nation's flag is a wonderful way for this body and for citizens throughout this country to remember the sacrifices of millions of men and women in service to our great Nation.

Ordinary men and women have done extraordinary things time and again to preserve the values and beliefs that make the United States a wonderful country. Their brave sacrifices will never be forgotten or overlooked. As we speak, men and women are fighting for freedom and justice and helping to preserve peace in foreign lands throughout the world. Their remarkable sacrifices are being made not for personal gain or fame, but because of deep-seeded patriotism. That American spirit is alive and well and will preserve this Nation for years to come.

On behalf of my constituents in the Eighth District of Washington, I want to take this moment to honor the service of our many soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. Their sacrifices allow Old Glory to fly. On Memorial Day, citizens throughout this country united to reflect on the valor and sacrifice we honor, and it is my hope that we carry that spirit every day of the year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. PASCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. I was unavoidably detained last Thursday, June 5, during the rollcall votes for the following bills: H.R. 5540, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act; H.R. 3058, Public Land Communities Transition Act of 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

"No" on rollcall vote 384, on the Bishop of Utah amendment to H.R. 5540, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act;

"No" on rollcall vote 385, on Motion To Recommit With Instructions, H.R. 5540, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act;